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ABSTRACT

During February-March 1991, 1,518 randomly selected Pennsylvania adults with listed telephone numbers were surveyed on political, educational, and health issues. With regard to education, respondents: (1) strongly favored limiting class size to 15 students in grades K-3, and funding public education through the state income tax (not local taxes); (2) somewhat favored denying high school dropouts a driver's license until age 18; (3) somewhat opposed extending the school year beyond its present 180 days; and (4) split over corporal punishment in public schools and teachers' right to strike. On health issues, public opinion strongly favored testing sex criminals for AIDS, legalizing physician assistance to euthanasia, and setting a legal age for smoking. A large majority felt that abortion is a private matter between a woman and her doctor, but also favored parental or husband notification, a 24-hour waiting period, and mandatory counseling. Most respondents thought that the state should handle its budget problems by cutting spending rather than by raising taxes. Specific questions addressed taxes, possible cuts in services, and legalized gambling. In a test of socio-political awareness, Pennsylvanians underestimated the state population and overestimated the state's black and elderly populations; 85% knew the governor's name, but only 31% knew both state senators. Data tables detail responses by age, sex, regional and rural/urban residence, educational attainment, political affiliation, and socio-political awareness score. (SV)

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THE PUBLIC MIND

VIEWS OF PENNSYLVANIA CITIZENS

- TAXES
- EDUCATION
- ABORTION
- SMOKING
- EUTHANASIA
- FETAL PROTECTION
- SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS

MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY RURAL SERVICES

Report No. 3
May 1991

RC 018902

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THE RURAL SERVICES INSTITUTE

BACKGROUND

The Rural Services Institute (RSI) was established in 1984 as the applied research and community service arm of Mansfield University within the Division of Community Services and Continuing Education.

PURPOSE

Our purpose is to share the resources of the university with the regional rural community. We encourage and assist students, faculty, and staff to meet the identified needs of business and industry, area students, local governments, and social service agencies.

MISSION

Our mission is to engage in community service on behalf of the university and to be the applied research arm of Mansfield University.

How We Will Accomplish Our Mission

In carrying out our mission we will:

- strive for excellence in all our efforts;
- apply the resources of the university to help solve community problems;
- be committed to providing leadership for the economic revitalization and development of the region;
- be committed to increasing the problem solving capacity of the region;
- work at raising people's expectation levels and their self esteem;
- assume the role of pointing out problems to the community;
- act as a facilitator in helping the community reach solutions to their identified problems;
- do applied research and pilot projects on potential solutions to these problems;
- strive to enhance the image of Mansfield University;
- seek to attain the goals set by the State System of Higher Education and Mansfield University.

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3rd Annual RSI SURVEY

May, 1991

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EDUCATION

- **Pennsylvanians prefer the income tax, rather than the property tax, as the primary source of funding for public education**

By more than a 2-to-1 margin (57% v. 24%, 19% don't know), Pennsylvanians feel that the costs of public education should be covered mostly through the state income tax rather than a local property tax. Support for the position is evident among both Democrats(59%) and Republicans(52%), regardless of region, age, educational level, or the sex of the respondents. In expressing their views, some respondents felt that equity of educational opportunity could be more easily attained if the financing of schools was based primarily upon the state income tax. Others expressed a concern that if the state bears the cost it will exert too much control over local schools. As one respondent put it: "If the state pays, the state says."

Restrictions on Dropouts. Since the first so-called "No Pass/No Drive" law was passed in West Virginia in 1988, at least 10 states have attempted to encourage students to stay in school by denying dropouts the opportunity to have a driver's license until the age of eighteen. Whether or not such legislation actually reduces the number of dropouts is not yet certain, but by a narrow margin (50%, favor; 45%, oppose) Pennsylvanians are willing to try the idea. Support is strongest in Western Pennsylvania(57%), and much more so among older adults. For example, 59% of the elderly versus only 40% of young adults support the idea.

Lengthening the School Year. Pennsylvania is an average state in terms of the length of its school year (180 days) when compared to other states. When compared to other industrialized nations the U.S. is well-below average. The school year is 240 days in Japan, and 210 in Germany.

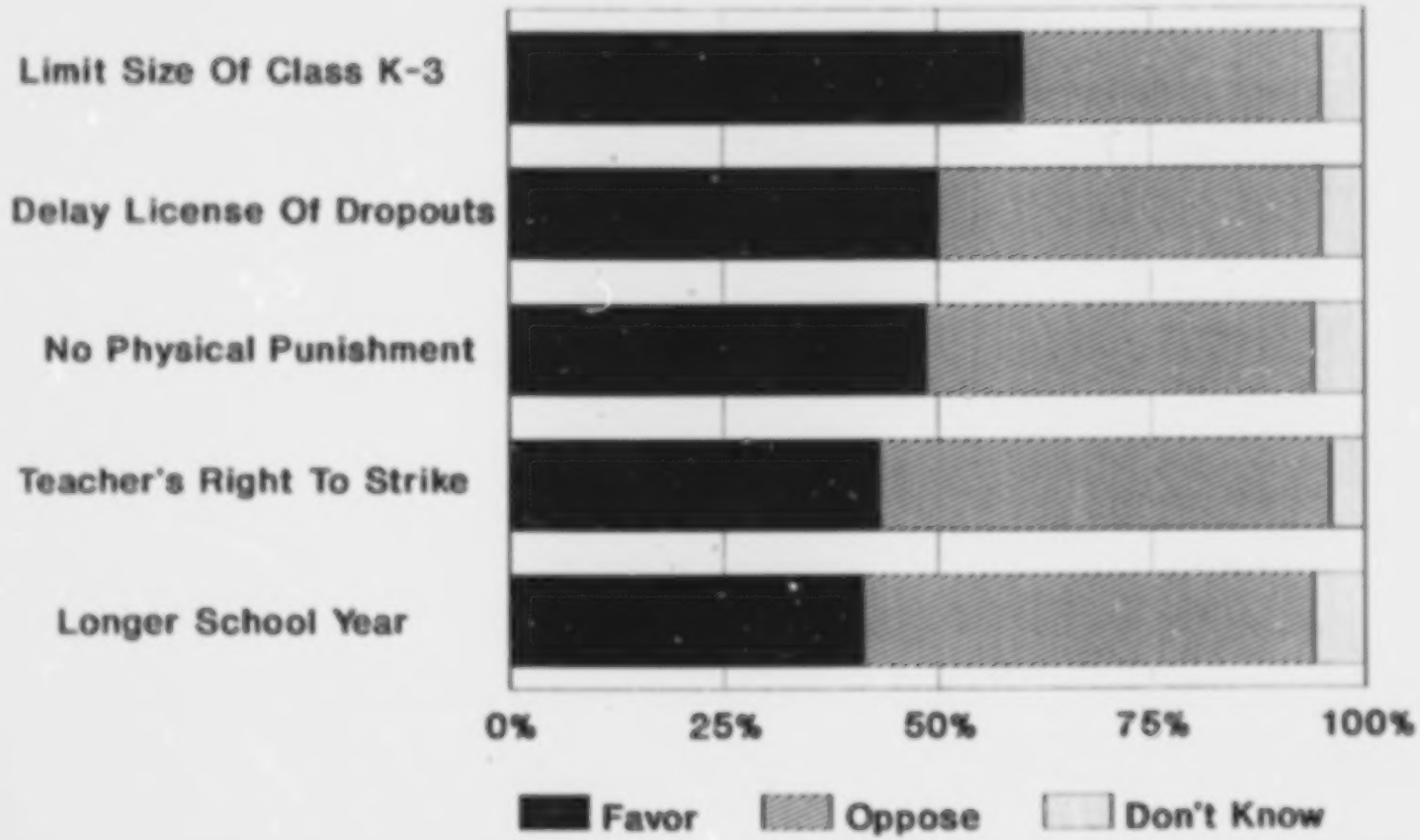
Despite calls by educational leaders to extend the school year, Pennsylvanians are not yet willing to support the idea (53%, oppose; 41%, favor). Opposition is strongest among ruralites(65%), persons with less than a high school education(64%), and female Democrats (37%). Some opponents suggested that more attention should be given to quality, rather than quantity of time in school. Some were concerned about the costs. In rural areas there was some concern about how farming tasks would be met if the school year was extended.

Corporal Punishment in Public Schools. The National Education Association, the American Medical Association, the American Bar Association, the National PTA, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Pennsylvania State Education Association, the Pennsylvania School Board Association, and various other groups have supported proposed legislation to ban corporal punishment in public schools. Nonetheless, public sentiment in Pennsylvania is almost evenly split on the idea: 48%, favor; 45%, oppose; 6%, don't know. Proponents of a ban are more likely to be young adults. Sex and political affiliation are not linked to opinion on the issue.

Class Size. There is general(60%) public support for a proposal to limit the size of public school classes, K through third grade, to fifteen students. Both male and female Democrats(65%), and female Republicans rather strongly support(62%) the proposal, but that support wanes among male Republicans (44%). Currently, the proposal is being strongly advocated for by the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

Restrictions on Teacher Strikes. Pennsylvanians are split on the question of whether teachers should or should not be allowed to strike. Young adults, Democrats, and persons who are college-educated are somewhat more likely to support the right to strike. In one woman's words: " If baseball players can strike, so can teachers!" Some of the respondents who wanted to ban teacher strikes suggested the use of binding arbitration as a means of settling disputes.

Figure 1. PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PROPOSALS RELATING TO EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

EDUCATION: Delaying a Dropout's Drivers License

Question: Some states do not permit a high school dropout to obtain a driver's license until the age of 18. Would you favor or oppose having such a law in Pennsylvania?

RESPONSES	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	50%	45	5	1516
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	50%	45	5	326
Urban	50%	45	5	1190
Region*				
Northwest	55%	40	5	157
Southwest	58%	38	4	399
Central	47%	48	6	314
Northeast	53%	44	3	102
Southeast	44%	50	6	544
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	40%	56	4	451
35-49	50%	45	5	465
50-64	57%	38	5	304
65 or older	59%	32	9	271
Sex				
Female	51%	43	5	799
Male	49%	47	5	709
Educational Level				
Less than High School	47%	44	9	196
High School Graduate	52%	44	4	628
College Graduate	48%	47	5	473
Political Affiliation				
Republican	52%	43	5	515
Democrat	53%	43	4	565
Independent/Other	44%	51	5	82
None	43%	50	6	327
Source of Information				
Television	51%	43	6	756
Newspaper	52%	44	4	482
Radio	41%	51	8	63
Magazine	53%	44	3	34
Other	39%	56	5	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	51%	44	6	511
2-3	52%	44	5	715
4-6	45%	50	5	290

* See Appendices for explanation.

EDUCATION: Extending the School Year

Question: Currently, the school year in Pennsylvania is 180 days. Do you favor or oppose having more days in the school year?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	41%	53	6	1517
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	29%	65	6	327
Urban	44%	50	6	1190
Region*				
Northwest	38%	60	3	157
Southwest	35%	59	6	399
Central	39%	54	7	315
Northeast	32%	62	6	101
Southeast	48%	45	7	545
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	35%	60	5	452
35-49	40%	53	6	466
50-64	49%	45	6	303
65 or older	41%	50	9	271
Sex				
Female	37%	57	6	800
Male	44%	49	6	709
Educational Level				
Less than High School	26%	64	10	196
High School Graduate	40%	56	5	830
College Graduate	48%	44	8	472
Political Affiliation				
Republican	46%	47	8	515
Democrat	40%	55	6	565
Independent/Other	40%	49	11	82
None	33%	62	5	328
Source of Information				
Television	37%	57	6	756
Newspaper	43%	50	7	483
Radio	43%	52	5	63
Magazine	59%	41	0	34
Other	43%	48	9	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	31%	64	5	512
2-3	44%	50	6	716
4-6	47%	43	10	289

*See Appendices for explanation.

EDUCATION: Corporal Punishment of Students

Question: Some people feel that there should be a law to stop paddling and other forms of physical punishment in public schools. Would you favor or oppose such a law?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	48%	45	6	1512
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	42%	53	6	326
Urban	50%	43	7	1186
Region*				
Northwest	45%	49	6	156
Southwest	45%	49	6	397
Central	44%	50	5	315
Northeast	45%	52	3	102
Southeast	55%	38	8	542
Age				
18 to 34 year olds*	58%	38	4	451
35-49	46%	48	6	464
50-64	44%	47	9	304
65 or older	41%	51	9	271
Sex				
Female	50%	43	7	795
Male	47%	48	6	709
Educational Level				
Less than High School	40%	53	7	196
High School Graduate	49%	44	7	826
College Graduate	51%	44	5	427
Political Affiliation				
Republican	48%	45	7	515
Democrat	48%	46	6	563
Independent/Other	50%	46	4	82
None	51%	44	6	325
Source of Information				
Television	49%	45	6	754
Newspaper	46%	47	7	482
Radio	49%	41	10	63
Magazine	50%	50	0	34
Other	53%	39	8	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	49%	43	8	508
2-3	46%	49	6	714
4-6	52%	42	6	290

* See Appendices for explanation.

EDUCATION: Limits on Class Size

Question: A law has been proposed to limit the size of public school classes, in kindergarten thru third grade, to 15 students. Would you favor or oppose such a law?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	60%	35	5	1510
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	57%	38	6	324
Urban	60%	35	5	1186
Region*				
Northwest	58%	37	5	155
Southwest	58%	38	4	398
Central	60%	34	6	314
Northeast	65%	31	4	101
Southeast	60%	34	6	542
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	63%	32	5	450
35-49	63%	33	4	462
50-64	51%	44	5	304
65 or older	57%	34	8	270
Sex				
Female	65%	31	4	797
Male	54%	40	6	705
Educational Level				
Less than High School	56%	37	7	195
High School Graduate	60%	36	5	825
College Graduate	61%	34	5	472
Political Affiliation				
Republican	53%	42	5	514
Democrat	65%	31	4	563
Independent/Other	48%	42	11	82
None	64%	31	5	324
Source of Information				
Television	62%	33	5	753
Newspaper	58%	37	5	481
Radio	62%	32	6	63
Magazine	59%	29	12	34
Other	54%	40	6	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	65%	30	5	508
2-3	58%	36	6	713
4-6	53%	43	4	289

*See Appendices for explanation.

EDUCATION: Teachers' Right to Strike

Question: Currently, according to Pennsylvania law, teachers have the right to strike. Do you think that teachers should have the right to strike by law?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	43%	53	4	1511
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	40%	56	5	327
Urban	44%	52	5	1184
Region*				
Northwest	42%	55	4	156
Southwest	41%	56	4	397
Central	43%	53	5	315
Northeast	39%	58	3	101
Southeast	46%	49	6	542
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	51%	46	3	450
35-49	48%	47	4	464
50-64	33%	62	5	304
65 or older	32%	63	5	269
Sex				
Female	40%	56	5	796
Male	47%	49	4	707
Educational Level				
Less than High School	33%	61	6	195
High School Graduate	42%	55	4	826
College Graduate	50%	45	5	472
Political Affiliation				
Republican	33%	62	5	513
Democrat	50%	46	4	563
Independent/Other	48%	45	7	82
None	45%	51	4	326
Source of Information				
Television	42%	53	5	754
Newspaper	43%	54	4	481
Radio	48%	44	8	63
Magazine	65%	29	6	34
Other	41%	51	8	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	43%	53	5	508
2-3	41%	55	4	713
4-6	48%	47	5	290

* See Appendices for explanation.

EDUCATION: Funding Schools

Question: Do you feel that public education in Pennsylvania should be paid for mostly by local property taxes or by the state income tax?

RESPONSES:	Local Property	State Income	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	24%	57	19	1489
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	24%	56	20	325
Urban	24%	57	19	1164
Region*				
Northwest	23%	55	22	153
Southwest	23%	58	19	394
Central	24%	59	18	313
Northeast	25%	58	17	101
Southeast	25%	55	21	528
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	27%	58	15	445
35-49	27%	58	16	454
50-64	23%	55	22	299
65 or older	17%	56	27	266
Sex				
Female	22%	55	23	787
Male	26%	59	15	694
Educational Level				
Less than High School	15%	56	28	145
High School Graduate	24%	57	18	810
College Graduate	28%	56	16	465
Political Affiliation				
Republican	30%	52	18	510
Democrat	21%	59	20	552
Independent/Other	24%	53	23	78
None	21%	61	18	322
Source of Information				
Television	24%	57	19	745
Newspaper	25%	58	17	473
Radio	22%	59	19	63
Magazine	36%	49	15	33
Other	22%	46	32	94
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	22%	57	22	503
2-3	24%	57	19	705
4-6	30%	55	15	281

* See Appendices for explanation.

HEALTH ISSUES

- **Pennsylvanians strongly support mandatory AIDS testing of rapists, legalization of physician-assisted euthanasia, a legal age for smoking, a ban on fetal protection policies, and Pennsylvania restrictions on abortion.**

Testing Sex Criminals for AIDS. Currently in Pennsylvania, if a woman is raped or a child is sexually abused, the victims cannot legally demand that the criminal be tested for AIDS and that the results be given to the victim. The basic argument against such mandatory testing is that it would erode confidentiality in AIDS testing, and undermine civil liberties. It is pointed out that even if the criminal has AIDS, one still cannot be certain that the criminal actually infected the victim; thus, criminals may become victims of unwarranted stigmatization and discrimination. Proponents of mandatory testing argue that victims have an immediate right to know if they have been doubly victimized. By a clear majority(93%), Pennsylvanians favor mandatory AIDS testing of sex criminals.

Legalization of Physician-Assisted Euthanasia. In March 1990, there was a controversial report in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by a physician who provided a terminally ill patient with a lethal prescription of barbiturates to hasten her death. The case underscored that the practice of euthanasia may emerge as one of the most hotly debated medical-ethical issues of the 90's. In this regard, 67% of Pennsylvanians feel that such actions should be legal if the patient and family make a request. Support for legalization of the practice is found among all age groups, but more so among young adults(77%) than the elderly(58%). There were also regional differences of opinion: highest in the Southwest(71%), lowest in the Northwest(58%).

Legal Age for Smoking. Currently, the legal age of drinking alcoholic beverages in Pennsylvania is 21. In view of the rising concern about the effects of tobacco, it has been proposed that there also should be a legal age for smoking. By a 2-to-1 margin, Pennsylvanians support the proposal, but their opinion is split on whether the legal age should be 18 or 21. Public sentiment for having a legal age is strongest among young adults. In one respondent's words: "The legal age for smoking should be never."

Abortion. In 1989, a random sample of Pennsylvanians were asked: "Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: Abortion is a private issue between a woman, her family, and her doctor. The government should not be involved." At the time, 76% agreed. Replicating that question, the current survey found similar opinion: 78% agreed. Still, despite a seemingly implicit support of the abortion rights position, respondents also agreed with the major state government restrictions that were enacted in 1989: 78% agree that parents must be notified before a teenage daughter can have an abortion; 76% agree that a husband must be informed before his wife has an abortion; 81% agree that there must be a 24-hour waiting period before a woman has an abortion unless there's an emergency; and, 78% agree that a woman must receive counselling before she undergoes an abortion.

Support for abortion restrictions is generally stronger among males than females, and it is directly related to age. Except in Southeastern Pennsylvania, there is very little regional opposition to the current restrictions, but even in that region only about 20-25% disagree with the current law. Perhaps indicative of public discontent over the abortion debate, a male Republican remarked: "Abortion is a very delicate subject, but I don't think the government is sincere enough to handle it."

Fetal Protection Policies. In March 1991, the Supreme Court ruled that employers may not adopt "fetal protection" policies that bar potentially child-bearing women from jobs in which they would be exposed to chemicals that might cause birth defects. By a 2-to-1 margin, Pennsylvanians agree with that decision. Regardless of whether the perceived risk is viewed as "slight" or "significant," Pennsylvanians do not feel that an employer has the right to refuse to hire or the right to lay off a woman on the grounds of fetal protection. Instead, Pennsylvanians generally feel that the decision should be left to the woman. Support for the woman's right is particularly evident among the college-educated, Democrats, and respondents under the age of 65.

HEALTH ISSUES: Testing Sex Criminals for AIDS

Question: Would you favor or oppose a law requiring that anyone convicted of a sex crime be tested for AIDS?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	93%	5	2	1513
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	94%	4	2	327
Urban	93%	6	1	1186
Region*				
Northwest	93%	6	1	156
Southwest	92%	6	2	397
Central	95%	4	2	315
Northeast	94%	5	1	102
Southeast	92%	6	2	543
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	95%	5	0	451
35-49	93%	6	1	464
50-64	92%	4	3	304
65 or older	92%	6	3	270
Sex				
Female	95%	4	2	797
Male	91%	7	1	708
Educational Level				
Less than High School	92%	7	1	196
High School Graduate	95%	3	2	827
College Graduate	89%	9	2	472
Political Affiliation				
Republican	94%	5	1	515
Democrat	92%	6	2	563
Independent/Other	87%	11	2	82
None	94%	5	1	327
Source of Information				
Television	94%	5	1	756
Newspaper	92%	6	2	481
Radio	94%	6	0	63
Magazine	91%	9	0	34
Other	92%	6	2	95
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	95%	4	1	510
2-3	93%	6	2	715
4-6	90%	8	2	288

* See Appendices for explanation.

HEALTH ISSUES: EUTHANASIA — Legalization of Physician Assistance

Question: When a person has a disease that cannot be cured, do you think doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his family request it?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	67%	26	8	1509
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	63%	30	7	327
Urban	68%	25	8	1182
Region*				
Northwest	58%	31	10	156
Southwest	71%	21	8	396
Central	62%	30	9	314
Northeast	68%	24	8	101
Southeast	69%	26	6	542
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	77%	20	4	450
35-49	66%	27	7	465
50-64	62%	28	10	303
65 or older	58%	30	13	268
Sex				
Female	66%	27	7	794
Male	68%	25	8	707
Educational Level				
Less than High School	67%	23	10	196
High School Graduate	66%	27	7	824
College Graduate	69%	24	7	473
Political Affiliation				
Republican	64%	26	10	516
Democrat	66%	28	7	562
Independent/Other	70%	25	5	81
None	72%	22	6	325
Source of Information				
Television	68%	25	7	754
Newspaper	67%	27	7	480
Radio	59%	29	13	63
Magazine	56%	32	12	34
Other	66%	27	7	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	69%	23	8	502
2-3	66%	27	8	712
4-6	68%	26	6	290

* See Appendices for explanation.

HEALTH ISSUES: SMOKING — Setting A Legal Age

Question: Currently, in Pennsylvania, there is a legal age for drinking. Would you favor or oppose having a legal age for smoking?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	64%	31	5	1500
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	67%	28	6	324
Urban	63%	32	5	1176
Region*				
Northwest	66%	29	5	156
Southwest	63%	31	6	394
Central	67%	28	5	310
Northeast	56%	38	4	101
Southeast	63%	31	6	539
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	69%	29	2	451
35-49	64%	31	5	461
50-64	60%	33	7	301
65 or older	60%	32	8	266
Sex				
Female	64%	30	5	789
Male	64%	31	5	703
Educational Level				
Less than High School	60%	34	7	193
High School Graduate	64%	31	5	822
College Graduate	65%	30	5	469
Political Affiliation				
Republican	67%	29	4	511
Democrat	62%	31	7	557
Independent/Other	57%	41	3	81
None	64%	31	5	327
Source of Information				
Television	64%	30	6	748
Newspaper	66%	30	4	482
Radio	63%	36	2	62
Magazine	66%	32	0	34
Other	62%	30	9	94
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	67%	28	5	504
2-3	64%	30	6	704
4-6	56%	38	5	289

* See Appendices for explanation.

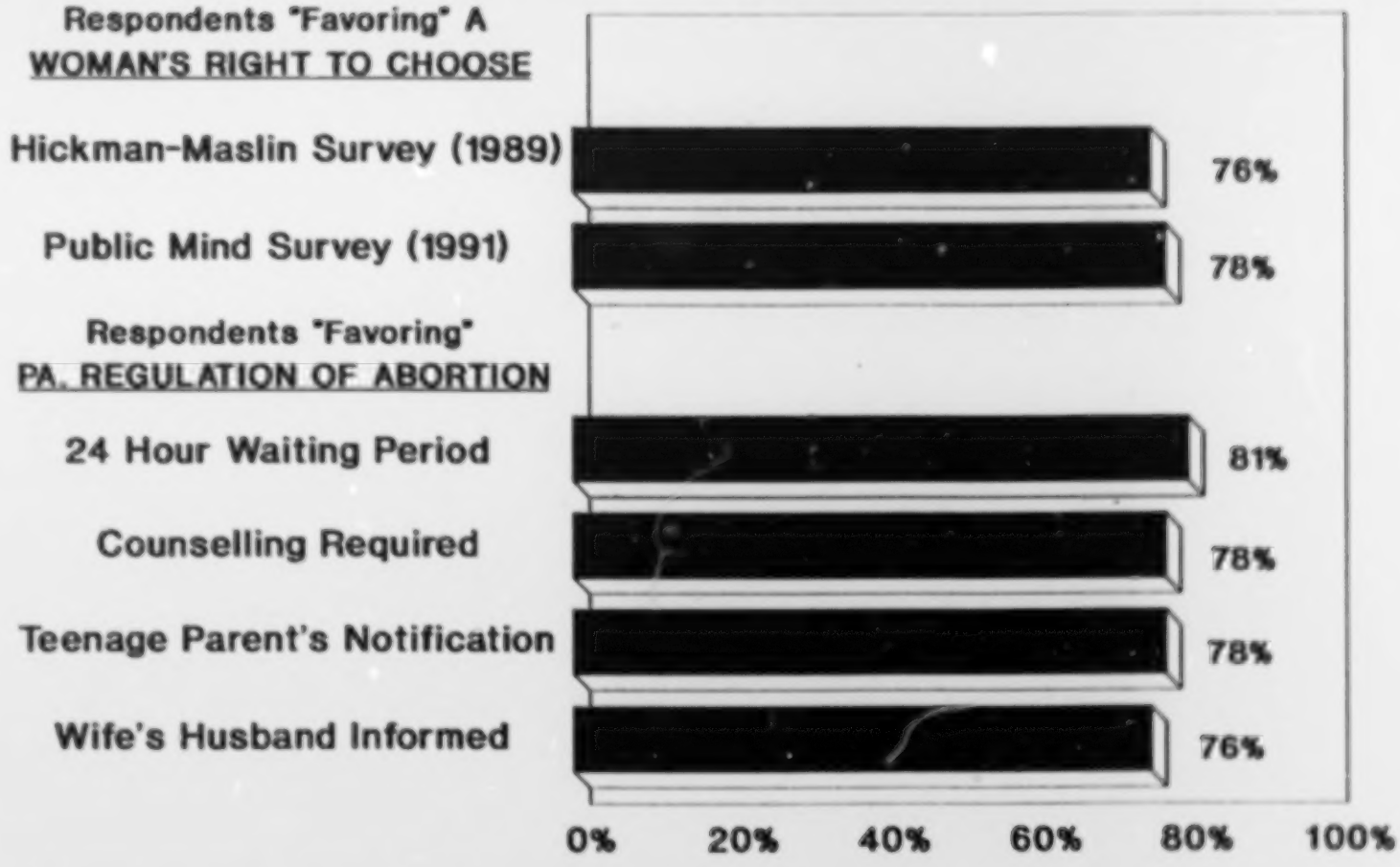
HEALTH ISSUES: ABORTION — Private *vs* Governmental Issue

Question: Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: Abortion is a private issue between a woman, her family, and her doctor. The government should not be involved.

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	78%	18	4	1501
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	74%	21	5	323
Urban	79%	17	4	1178
Region*				
Northwest	72%	23	5	155
Southwest	79%	18	3	396
Central	73%	22	5	312
Northeast	84%	15	1	100
Southeast	80%	15	5	538
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	77%	20	3	447
35-49	78%	19	4	460
50-64	78%	17	5	303
65 or older	78%	15	7	269
Sex				
Female	78%	17	5	791
Male	78%	19	3	702
Educational Level				
Less th an High School	75%	19	6	194
High School Graduate	80%	16	4	822
College Graduate	76%	21	3	469
Political Affiliation				
Republican	75%	20	5	509
Democrat	79%	18	3	561
Independent/Other	78%	17	5	81
None	80%	16	4	326
Source of Information				
Television	76%	19	5	751
Newspaper	81%	16	3	482
Radio	76%	19	5	62
Magazine	77%	24	0	34
Other	76%	19	4	93
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	78%	17	5	504
2-3	78%	17	5	709
4-6	76%	21	2	288

* See Appendices for explanation.

Figure 2. VIEWS ON ABORTION



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

HEALTH ISSUES: ABORTION — Notification of Parents

Question: Would you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement: that parents must be *notified* before their teenage daughter can have an abortion?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	78%	19	4	1494
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	84%	13	3	322
Urban	76%	20	4	1177
Region*				
Northwest	81%	15	4	155
Southwest	83%	15	3	396
Central	79%	18	3	310
Northeast	83%	14	3	102
Southeast	71%	24	5	536
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	74%	24	2	447
35-49	76%	20	4	459
50-64	81%	14	5	302
65 or older	83%	13	4	269
Sex				
Female	75%	20	5	788
Male	81%	17	2	703
Educational Level				
Less than High School	87%	10	3	194
High School Graduate	83%	14	3	819
College Graduate	65%	30	5	470
Political Affiliation				
Republican	79%	17	4	508
Democrat	75%	22	3	562
Independent/Other	63%	29	9	80
None	83%	14	3	326
Source of Information				
Television	79%	17	4	751
Newspaper	78%	19	3	479
Radio	71%	28	2	61
Magazine	62%	35	3	34
Other	77%	16	7	95
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	81%	16	4	504
2-3	79%	17	4	709
4-6	70%	28	3	286

* See Appendices for explanation.

HEALTH ISSUES: ABORTION — Informing the Husband

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement: that a husband must *be informed* before his wife has an abortion?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	76%	20	3	1497
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	83%	14	3	322
Urban	75%	22	3	1175
Region*				
Northwest	83%	13	4	155
Southwest	81%	18	2	395
Central	76%	21	3	311
Northeast	78%	19	3	99
Southeast	72%	24	5	537
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	80%	19	2	447
35-49	71%	25	4	460
50-64	78%	17	5	301
65 or older	79%	17	4	267
Sex				
Female	71%	25	4	788
Male	83%	15	3	702
Educational Level				
Less than High School	88%	10	2	194
High School Graduate	80%	17	4	817
College Graduate	66%	30	3	470
Political Affiliation				
Republican	77%	19	4	506
Democrat	72%	25	3	561
Independent/Other	64%	33	3	81
None	85%	13	2	325
Source of Information				
Television	78%	19	3	749
Newspaper	77%	21	3	477
Radio	71%	26	3	61
Magazine	62%	35	3	34
Other	68%	23	9	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	83%	14	3	503
2-3	75%	21	4	706
4-6	67%	30	2	288

* See Appendices for explanation.

HEALTH ISSUES: ABORTION — Mandated 24-hour Waiting Period

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement: that there must be a 24-hour waiting period before a woman has an abortion unless there's an emergency?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	81%	16	3	1497
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	85%	12	3	320
Urban	80%	17	3	1174
Region*				
Northwest	83%	14	3	154
Southwest	84%	13	3	393
Central	83%	15	2	309
Northeast	84%	13	3	101
Southeast	77%	20	4	537
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	81%	17	2	447
35-49	81%	15	4	459
50-64	82%	14	4	301
65 or older	79%	17	4	266
Sex				
Female	79%	18	3	787
Male	84%	14	3	700
Educational Level				
Less than High School	89%	8	3	194
High School Graduate	85%	12	3	815
College Graduate	71%	26	3	470
Political Affiliation				
Republican	83%	13	4	509
Democrat	77%	20	2	557
Independent/Other	80%	16	4	81
None	84%	13	3	323
Source of Information				
Television	83%	14	3	743
Newspaper	80%	17	3	480
Radio	74%	21	5	61
Magazine	68%	32	0	34
Other	75%	20	5	95
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	83%	13	4	499
2-3	83%	15	3	708
4-6	73%	24	2	287

*See Appendices for explanation.

HEALTH ISSUES: ABORTION — Mandated Counseling

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement: that a woman must receive counseling before she has an abortion?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	78%	19	3	1487
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	81%	16	3	321
Urban	77%	21	2	1176
Region*				
Northwest	80%	18	3	156
Southwest	82%	16	2	394
Central	78%	19	3	309
Northeast	77%	18	5	101
Southeast	75%	23	2	537
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	79%	19	2	446
35-49	78%	20	2	459
50-64	78%	19	3	302
65 or older	76%	19	5	268
Sex				
Female	78%	19	3	788
Male	78%	20	2	701
Educational Level				
Less than High School	80%	17	3	194
High School Graduate	82%	16	2	819
College Graduate	71%	26	3	468
Political Affiliation				
Republican	77%	20	2	510
Democrat	77%	21	2	561
Independent/Other	72%	23	5	81
None	83%	14	3	321
Source of Information				
Television	80%	17	3	746
Newspaper	77%	21	2	480
Radio	85%	13	2	61
Magazine	65%	32	3	34
Other	70%	24	6	95
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	81%	16	3	501
2-3	81%	17	3	711
4-6	66%	32	2	285

* See Appendices for explanation.

HEALTH ISSUES: FETAL PROTECTION — Employer's Right to Refuse to Hire/Lay Off

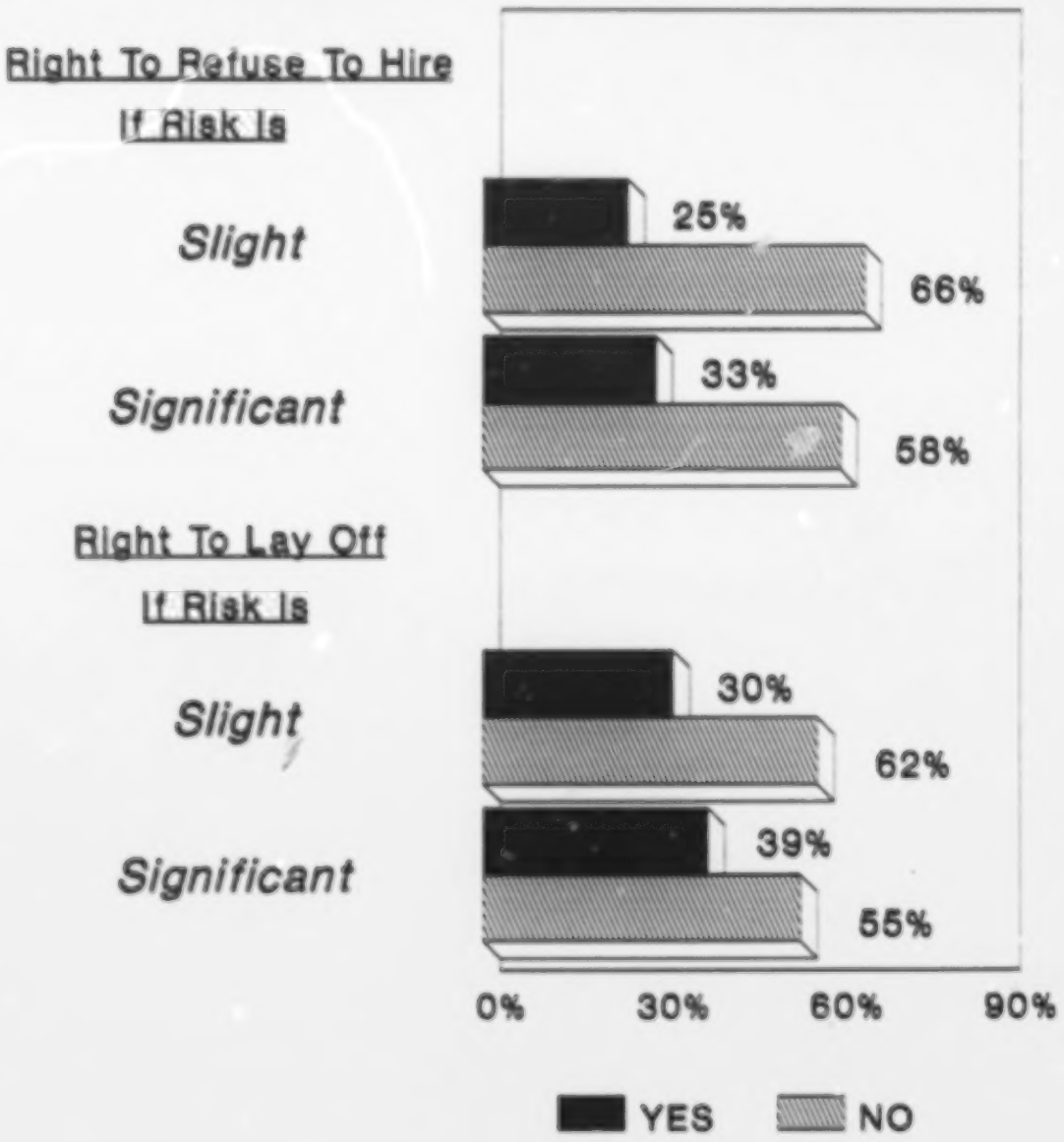
Question: If a pregnant woman works in a job where she is exposed to lead there is a *slight/significant* risk that she will bear a child with a serious birth defect. Keeping this in mind, do you think an employer has the right to refuse to hire a woman, unless she provides evidence that she cannot become pregnant? In the same situation, does the employer have the right to lay off a woman if she becomes pregnant?(Split ballot question)

	Right to Refuse To Hire if the risk is		Right to Lay-Off if the risk is	
RESPONSES:	"Slight"	"Significant"	"Slight"	"Significant"
Statewide	25%	33%	30%	39%
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	24	21	30	34
Urban	25	37	30	40
Region*				
Northwest	22	25	29	31
Southwest	27	33	31	42
Central	26	30	35	40
Northeast	24	39	29	46
Southeast	24	36	28	37
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	23	34	33	43
35-49	20	32	29	41
50-64	25	29	24	36
65 or older	35	40	35	33
Sex				
Female	23	32	32	38
Male	28	34	29	40
Educational Level				
Less than High School	36	39	35	33
High School Graduate	24	34	31	40
College Graduate	21	29	28	39
Political Affiliation				
Republican	31	33	34	41
Democrat	22	30	26	36
Independent/Other	20	32	31	43
None	21	37	30	40
Source of Information				
Television	28	31	29	34
Newspaper	23	35	32	37
Radio	7	33	37	36
Magazine	12	44	22	56
Other	23	29	25	41
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	26	32	32	41
2-3	26	33	31	38
4-6	21	33	25	38

* See Appendices for explanation.

Figure 3. FETAL PROTECTION POLICIES

Rights Of Employers If There Is Danger Of Lead Exposure To A Pregnant Woman



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND TAXES

- **Most Pennsylvanians want to cut spending, yet they are generally unwilling to accept reductions in programs and services . . . They will accept means testing as a way to cut spending and casino gambling as a way to increase revenue . . . If taxes are to be raised, they are most willing to have the corporate tax raised and least willing to have the income tax raised . . . Given the choice of either increasing the current sales tax to 7% or expanding it to cover currently exempt items and services, a majority of Pennsylvanians prefer an expansion . . . A strong majority are willing to accept an increase in the consumption taxes.**

Faced with the hard choice of either cutting state spending or increasing taxes, most Pennsylvanians(62%) say "cut spending." However, when asked about what programs and services to reduce, most are reluctant to reduce any of them. Among nine areas of spending by the state (see p. 24), Pennsylvanians are most willing to cut highway maintenance (32%), job training for unemployed (30%), and environmental protection (28%). They are least willing to cut programs for basic education (15%). Most Pennsylvanians (74%) feel that economic need, not age itself, should be the basis of providing benefits and tax exemptions for the elderly. Currently, most of the programs for the elderly are already "means tested," but there are differences of opinion as to what constitutes economic need.

To generate additional state revenue, overall about 60% of Pennsylvanians favor the legalization of casino gambling in selected resort areas of the state. Among male Democrats, 69% want legalization. Regionally, there is much more support for it in southern Pennsylvania than in the central and northeastern areas of the state.

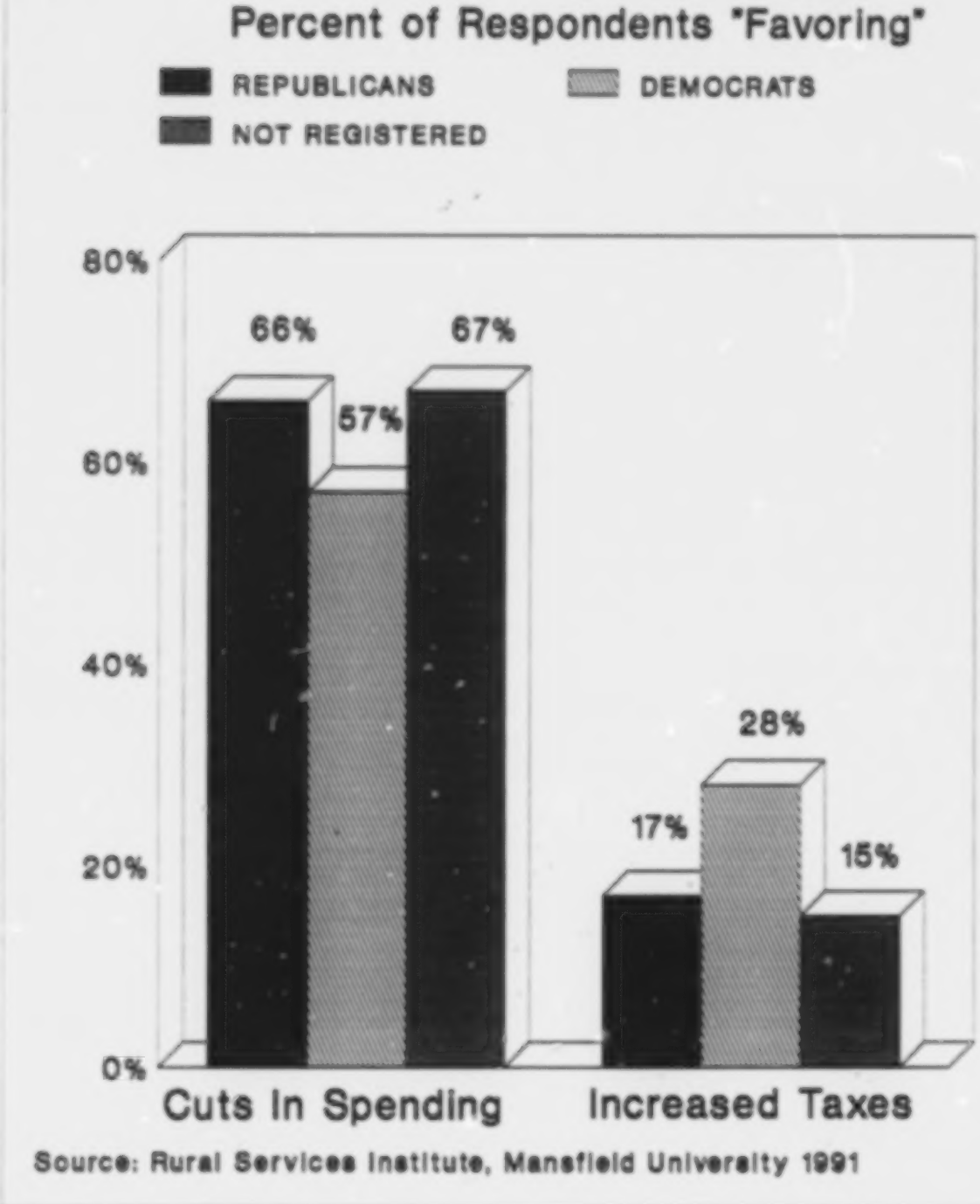
Of the major sources of tax revenue for the state (the sales tax, the income tax, the corporate tax, and the inheritance tax), Pennsylvanians are most willing to raise the corporate tax(48%) and least willing to raise the income tax(44%). Party differences in choice are slight. Female Democrats (55%) are most inclined to support raising the corporate tax; male Republicans (42%) are least likely.

To generate additional tax revenue, Governor Casey has proposed some expansions of the sales tax, specifically to apply to out-of-state telephone calls and cable TV services. As shown in Figure 6, a majority of Pennsylvanians would accept an extension of the sales tax to many items and services that are currently exempt. In fact, given the hard choice of either raising the current 6% sales tax to 7% or extending the current 6% sales tax to some currently exempt items and services, Pennsylvanians prefer an extension by a 51-38% margin. Somewhat surprisingly, the only region of the state in which people prefer an increase rather than elimination of exemptions is the Northeast (53% versus 36% in other regions). The Northeast is Governor Casey's home region.

In terms of specific items and services, Pennsylvanians are most willing to put a sales tax on alcoholic beverages bought in bars(76%), and advertising(72%). They are least willing to favor putting a a sales tax on shoes, clothing, and over-the-counter drugs(20%). Interestingly, there is very little difference of opinion among Republicans and Democrats.

Pennsylvanians rather strongly(80%) support proposals to raise the consumption (cigarette, beer, and liquor) taxes as a way of reducing the state deficit. The support is especially strong among Republicans and persons who are college graduates. However, at the same time, Pennsylvanians are equally opposed(79%) to any proposed increase in the gasoline tax.

Figure 4. BALANCING THE BUDGET PARTY DIFFERENCES



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

GOVERNMENT: Cut Spending or Raise Taxes?

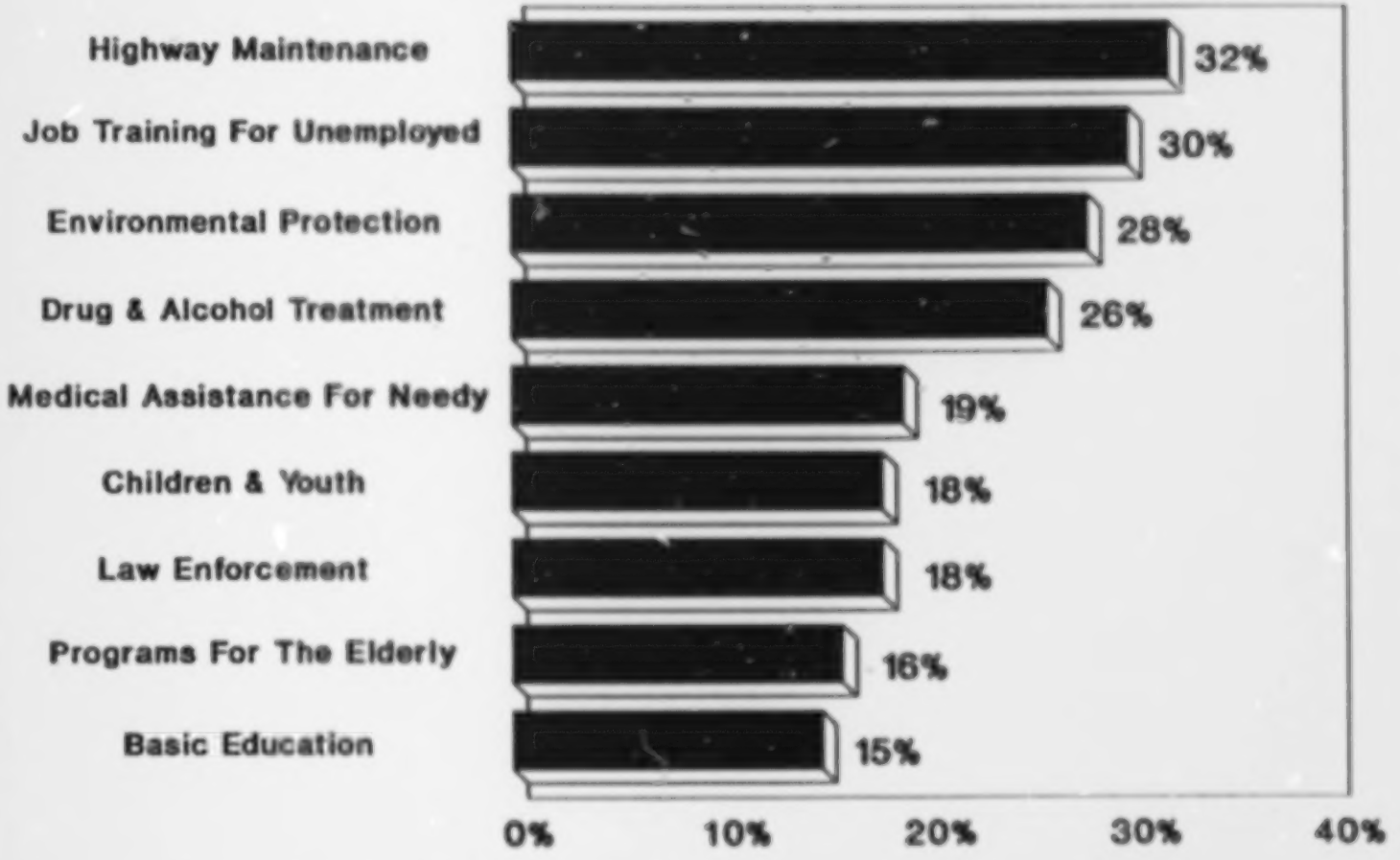
Question: As you know, the state is having serious budget problems. If you had to make the hard choice to cut spending OR increase taxes, what would you do?

RESPONSES:	Cut Spending	Increase Taxes	Both	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	62%	21	8	9	1487
Rural/Urban*					
Rural	62%	19	7	12	323
Urban	63%	21	8	8	1164
Region*					
Northwest	64%	15	8	13	154
Southwest	61%	23	6	10	395
Central	61%	23	7	9	309
Northeast	64%	18	5	13	97
Southeast	64%	20	10	6	532
Age					
18 to 34 year olds	61%	24	8	7	446
35-49	62%	23	9	7	453
50-64	65%	18	8	9	301
65 or older	63%	16	6	15	267
Sex					
Female	63%	20	7	11	785
Male	62%	21	10	7	696
Educational Level					
Less than High School	64%	16	3	18	192
High School Graduate	68%	17	7	9	814
College Graduate	53%	29	12	6	466
Political Affiliation					
Republican	66%	17	10	7	507
Democrat	57%	28	8	8	555
Independent/Other	61%	20	9	10	80
None	67%	15	5	13	323
Source of Information					
Television	64%	20	7	10	742
Newspaper	63%	20	9	8	478
Radio	60%	23	10	8	62
Magazines	36%	42	12	9	33
Other	61%	24	6	8	95
Social-Political Awareness Score					
0-1	65%	18	4	12	500
2-3	63%	21	9	8	702
4-6	57%	25	12	7	285

* See Appendices for explanation.

Figure 5. GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Respondents "Favoring" The Reduction Of Spending For...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

GOVERNMENT SPENDING: Willingness to Accept Reductions

Question: For each of the following areas of spending by the state, please tell me whether you think the state should *reduce* programs and services.

RESPONSES:	Elderly	Children Youth	Job Training Unemployed	Drug/ Alcohol	Law Enf.
Statewide	16%	18%	30%	26%	18%
Rural/Urban*					
Rural	14	13	29	23	17
Urban	17	19	31	28	19
Region*					
Northwest	14	12	28	25	18
Southwest	17	20	29	28	21
Central	16	19	31	24	17
Northeast	14	11	27	27	16
Southeast	16	19	32	27	18
Age					
18 to 34 year olds	16	14	31	24	21
35-49	15	20	29	26	16
50-64	15	16	32	29	18
65 or older	19	22	31	27	18
Sex					
Female	15	18	29	22	17
Male	17	18	32	31	20
Educational Level					
Less than High School	23	23	39	30	23
High School Graduate	15	16	28	25	18
College Graduate	16	18	30	27	17
Political Affiliation					
Republican	16	20	32	29	16
Democrat	15	15	27	24	19
Independent/Other	19	21	34	29	25
None	17	20	33	26	19
Source of Information					
Television	17	18	31	27	20
Newspaper	15	16	30	26	17
Radio	11	10	29	21	21
Magazines	15	21	27	21	9
Other	16	27	27	27	23
Social-Political Awareness Score					
0-1	17	17	29	26	20
2-3	15	18	32	26	17
4-6	17	20	29	28	18

GOVERNMENT SPENDING: Willingness to Accept Reductions (cont'd)

Question: For each of the following areas of spending by the state, please tell me whether you think the state should *reduce* programs and services.

RESPONSES:	Highway Maint.	Med. Asst. Needy	Envir. Protect.	Basic Educ.
Statewide	32%	19%	28%	15%
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	28	16	30	11
Urban	33	19	27	16
Region*				
Northwest	29	16	31	13
Southwest	32	16	29	16
Central	32	20	28	14
Northeast	31	22	32	16
Southeast	33	21	25	15
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	35	17	25	15
35-49	32	19	26	13
50-64	21	20	33	15
65 or older	28	21	30	21
Sex				
Female	32	18	27	14
Male	32	20	29	17
Educational Level				
Less than High School	33	24	33	25
High School Graduate	31	17	29	14
College Graduate	33	20	25	14
Political Affiliation				
Republican	30	20	29	16
Democrat	33	17	28	13
Independent/Other	29	24	20	17
None	34	19	28	17
Source of Information				
Television	32	20	27	18
Newspaper	34	19	29	14
Radio	25	16	24	10
Magazines	24	9	21	9
Other	35	19	29	15
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	31	17	27	14
2-3	33	20	29	16
4-6	32	19	27	14

* See Appendices for explanation.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING: Means Testing

Question: Currently, some programs for the elderly are given to anyone 62 or older, regardless of financial need. To cut the costs of such services, it has been proposed to give benefits only to the elderly who have financial need. Do you generally agree or disagree with that proposal?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	74%	22	4	1492
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	69%	26	6	324
Urban	76%	21	3	1168
Region*				
Northwest	61%	34	5	154
Southwest	75%	23	2	393
Central	78%	18	5	312
Northeast	77%	20	3	99
Southeast	74%	21	5	534
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	80%	19	2	445
35-49	75%	22	3	460
50-64	75%	21	5	302
65 or older	62%	30	8	267
Sex				
Female	74%	22	4	780
Male	74%	22	3	707
Educational Level				
Less than High School	67%	28	5	194
High School Graduate	73%	23	4	818
College Graduate	78%	19	3	467
Political Affiliation				
Republican	76%	20	4	509
Democrat	73%	23	4	557
Independent/Other	74%	21	5	82
None	72%	24	4	325
Source of Information				
Television	73%	24	3	748
Newspaper	75%	21	4	479
Radio	76%	16	8	63
Magazine	70%	27	3	33
Other	73%	21	6	95
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	68%	27	5	497
2-3	76%	21	3	708
4-6	81%	16	3	287

* See Appendices for explanation.

GOVERNMENT REVENUE: Extension of Gambling

Question: Some states are extending legalized betting to raise state revenue. Would you favor or oppose the legalization of casino gambling in selected resort areas of Pennsylvania?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	60%	36	4	1495
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	58%	39	3	322
Urban	61%	35	4	1173
Region*				
Northwest	61%	34	5	153
Southwest	64%	34	3	395
Central	52%	46	2	311
Northeast	53%	44	3	100
Southeast	64%	31	5	536
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	64%	34	3	445
35-49	66%	31	4	461
50-64	59%	37	4	302
65 or older	49%	46	5	269
Sex				
Female	57%	39	4	788
Male	64%	33	3	702
Educational Level				
Less than High School	53%	41	6	195
High School Graduate	61%	36	4	820
College Graduate	63%	35	2	469
Political Affiliation				
Republican	58%	38	4	511
Democrat	63%	35	2	560
Independent/Other	64%	31	5	80
None	62%	35	4	325
Source of Information				
Television	61%	36	3	749
Newspaper	60%	37	3	481
Radio	45%	48	7	62
Magazine	56%	46	0	33
Other	59%	37	4	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	59%	37	4	499
2-3	61%	36	3	708
4-6	62%	35	3	288

* See Appendices for explanation.

GOVERNMENT TAXES: Most Willing to Have Increased

Question: At this time, there are four major sources of tax revenue for the state to fund programs and services. They are: the 6% sales tax, the state income tax, the corporate tax, and the tax on inheritances. Assuming that taxes have to be raised, which one are you *most* willing to have increased?

RESPONSES:	Sales	Income	Corporate	Inheritance	Number of Respondents
Statewide	22%	15	48	15	1456
Rural/Urban*					
Rural	27%	11	48	14	310
Urban	21%	16	48	15	1146
Region*					
Northwest	25%	12	48	14	147
Southwest	25%	16	45	14	381
Central	22%	19	45	14	305
Northeast	22%	10	51	18	97
Southeast	19%	14	52	15	526
Age					
18 to 34 year olds	19%	11	49	21	442
35-49	19%	17	52	12	453
50-64	24%	16	47	14	292
65 or older	29%	17	43	11	254
Sex					
Female	20%	12	51	17	770
Male	24%	18	45	13	683
Educational Level					
Less than High School	28%	16	41	15	182
High School Graduate	22%	12	51	16	804
College Graduate	20%	20	46	13	461
Political Affiliation					
Republican	23%	19	46	13	494
Democrat	20%	14	52	15	550
Independent/Other	26%	10	47	17	78
None	23%	13	46	18	319
Source of Information					
Television	22%	13	49	16	732
Newspaper	22%	17	49	12	468
Radio	15%	25	44	15	59
Magazines	18%	18	42	21	33
Other	20%	14	48	19	92
Social-Political Awareness Score					
0-1	23%	10	49	19	484
2-3	23%	15	50	12	685
4-6	18%	23	43	16	287

* See Appendices for explanation.

GOVERNMENT TAXES: Least Willing to Have Increased

Question: At this time, there are four major sources of tax revenue for the state to fund programs and services. They are: the 6% sales tax, the state income tax, the corporate tax, and the tax on inheritances. Which tax are you *least* willing to have increased?

RESPONSES:	Sales	Income	Corporate	Inheritance	Number of Respondents
Statewide	33%	44	6	17	1469
Rural/Urban*					
Rural	30%	46	6	18	317
Urban	34%	43	6	17	1152
Region*					
Northwest	32%	45	6	17	150
Southwest	33%	41	8	19	385
Central	37%	40	6	17	307
Northeast	34%	41	3	22	97
Southeast	32%	49	5	15	530
Age					
18 to 34 year olds	37%	45	6	12	447
35-49	36%	42	5	17	456
50-64	26%	46	8	20	296
65 or older	32%	41	4	23	253
Sex					
Female	36%	43	5	16	779
Male	31%	44	7	18	687
Educational Level					
Less than High School	33%	45	6	17	181
High School Graduate	32%	46	5	17	815
College Graduate	36%	38	8	17	463
Political Affiliation					
Republican	34%	41	7	18	499
Democrat	35%	42	7	17	563
Independent/Other	27%	53	1	18	77
None	32%	49	4	16	322
Source of Information					
Television	34%	43	6	18	739
Newspaper	35%	43	6	16	470
Radio	33%	40	8	18	60
Magazines	33%	39	15	12	33
Other	32%	44	4	19	43
Social-Political Awareness Score					
0-1	34%	45	6	15	488
2-3	34%	43	5	18	697
4-6	32%	43	8	18	284

* See Appendices for explanation.

GOVERNMENT: Public Opinion on Expansion of the Sales Tax

Question: Currently you do not have to pay the 6% sales tax on the following goods and services. Please tell me if you would FAVOR or OPPOSE having them taxed as a way to reduce the state's deficit.

PERCENT RESPONDENTS "FAVORING"	Legal Fees	Computer Serv. Fees	Architect Fees	Out-of-State Phone Calls	Newspapers & TV ads	Drinks in Bars
Statewide	53%	62%	62%	43%	72%	76%
Rural/Urban*						
Rural	53	65	64	48	73	79
Urban	54	61	62	42	72	76
Region*						
Northwest	53	63	65	51	73	76
Southwest	53	64	62	42	70	75
Central	51	63	61	48	75	78
Northeast	47	58	60	37	73	79
Southeast	56	61	63	40	72	76
Age						
18 to 34 years olds	54	67	66	41	74	69
35-49	57	64	65	46	74	82
50-64	50	58	61	42	71	77
65 or older	50	56	56	44	70	80
Sex						
Female	50	61	60	40	71	81
Male	58	64	65	48	73	71
Educational Level						
Less than High School	50	57	56	41	59	70
High School Graduate	53	63	63	42	74	74
College Graduate	56	64	64	46	75	83
Political Affiliation						
Republican	55	62	63	43	76	78
Democrat	52	62	62	43	72	75
Independent/Other	51	60	58	46	77	78
None	56	65	64	44	69	75
Source of Information						
Television	53	61	62	44	73	76
Newspaper	56	65	64	45	74	78
Radio	54	58	61	48	69	76
Magazine	53	77	58	41	70	67
Other	45	57	59	37	72	77
Social-Political Awareness Score						
0-1	50	60	60	40	69	74
2-3	56	64	66	45	74	78
4-6	54	60	58	44	73	75

*See Appendices for explanation.

GOVERNMENT: Public Opinion on Expansion of the Sales Tax (cont'd)

Question: Currently, you do not have to pay the 6% sales tax on the following goods and services. Please tell me if you would FAVOR or OPPOSE having them taxed as a way to reduce the state's deficit.

PERCENT RESPONDENTS "FAVORING"	Clothing & Shoes	Over-the-Counter Drugs	Cable TV Serv.	Newspapers & Magazines	Cleaning Supplies	Candy & Gum
Statewide	20%	20%	54%	55%	34%	61%
Rural/Urban*						
Rural	20	27	55	57	34	60
Urban	20	19	54	54	34	62
Region*						
Northwest	22	26	55	50	31	54
Southwest	21	22	51	58	36	65
Central	16	21	56	58	35	62
Northeast	21	19	51	49	31	51
Southeast	22	17	56	52	34	63
Age						
18 to 34 years olds	23	24	55	61	42	68
35-49	20	21	57	57	36	61
50-64	18	18	52	52	32	61
65 or older	20	16	49	43	20	53
Sex						
Female	19	18	51	54	30	59
Male	22	23	58	55	38	64
Educational Level						
Less than High School	15	16	42	43	29	50
High School Graduate	21	22	53	55	33	60
College Graduate	21	20	62	59	40	69
Political Affiliation						
Republican	20	19	57	54	32	64
Democrat	19	18	53	52	33	59
Independent/Other	24	28	59	63	51	65
None	24	25	52	60	36	60
Source of Information						
Television	21	22	51	57	33	60
Newspaper	19	18	61	53	33	66
Radio	21	29	61	57	42	66
Magazine	27	24	70	53	56	68
Other	23	18	48	55	45	55
Social-Political Awareness Score						
0-1	22	20	49	57	34	59
2-3	20	21	56	56	34	62
4-6	18	21	59	47	36	64

*See Appendices for explanation.

GOVERNMENT TAXES: Increase Sales Tax to 7% *vs* Expand 6% Sales Tax

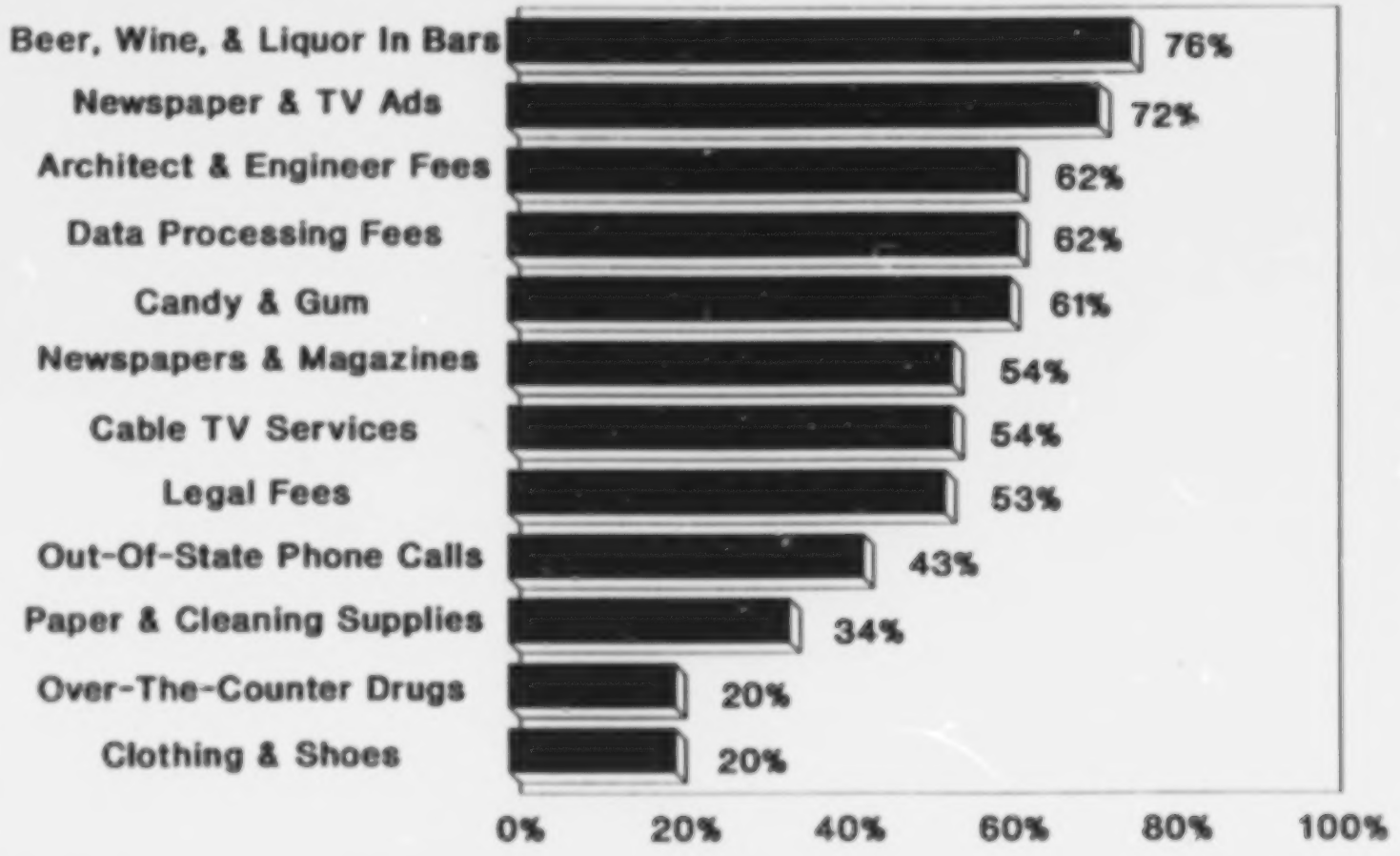
Question: If you had the choice of either raising the current 6% sales tax to 7% or putting a 6% tax on most of the items and services that I have just listed, what would you prefer?

RESPONSES:	Increase	Expand	Both	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide	38%	51	2	9	1493
Rural/Urban*					
Rural	28%	50	1	11	233
Urban	37%	52	2	9	1170
Region*					
Northwest	37%	49	1	13	154
Southwest	38%	51	2	10	390
Central	39%	51	2	8	310
Northeast	53%	37	2	8	100
Southeast	34%	55	2	9	539
Age					
18 to 34 year olds	39%	55	1	5	447
35-49	38%	53	4	5	463
50-64	34%	53	1	13	302
65 or older	38%	41	2	20	266
Sex					
Female	39%	50	1	9	786
Male	36%	52	3	9	704
Educational Level					
Less than High School	33%	48	1	19	194
High School Graduate	38%	51	2	9	822
College Graduate	39%	53	2	6	470
Political Affiliation					
Republican	35%	53	2	9	512
Democrat	38%	50	3	9	561
Independent/Other	38%	52	0	10	79
None	41%	51	1	8	326
Source of Information					
Television	38%	53	2	7	753
Newspapers	39%	51	2	9	482
Radio	28%	58	5	8	60
Magazines	35%	53	3	9	34
Other	32%	40	2	26	94
Social-Political Awareness Score					
0-1	37%	51	2	11	495
2-3	38%	51	2	9	710
4-6	37%	52	2	9	288

* See Appendices for explanation.

Figure 6. EXPANSION OF SALES TAX

Percent of Respondents Who "Favor" Putting A 6% Sales Tax On



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

GOVERNMENT: Raising Consumption Taxes

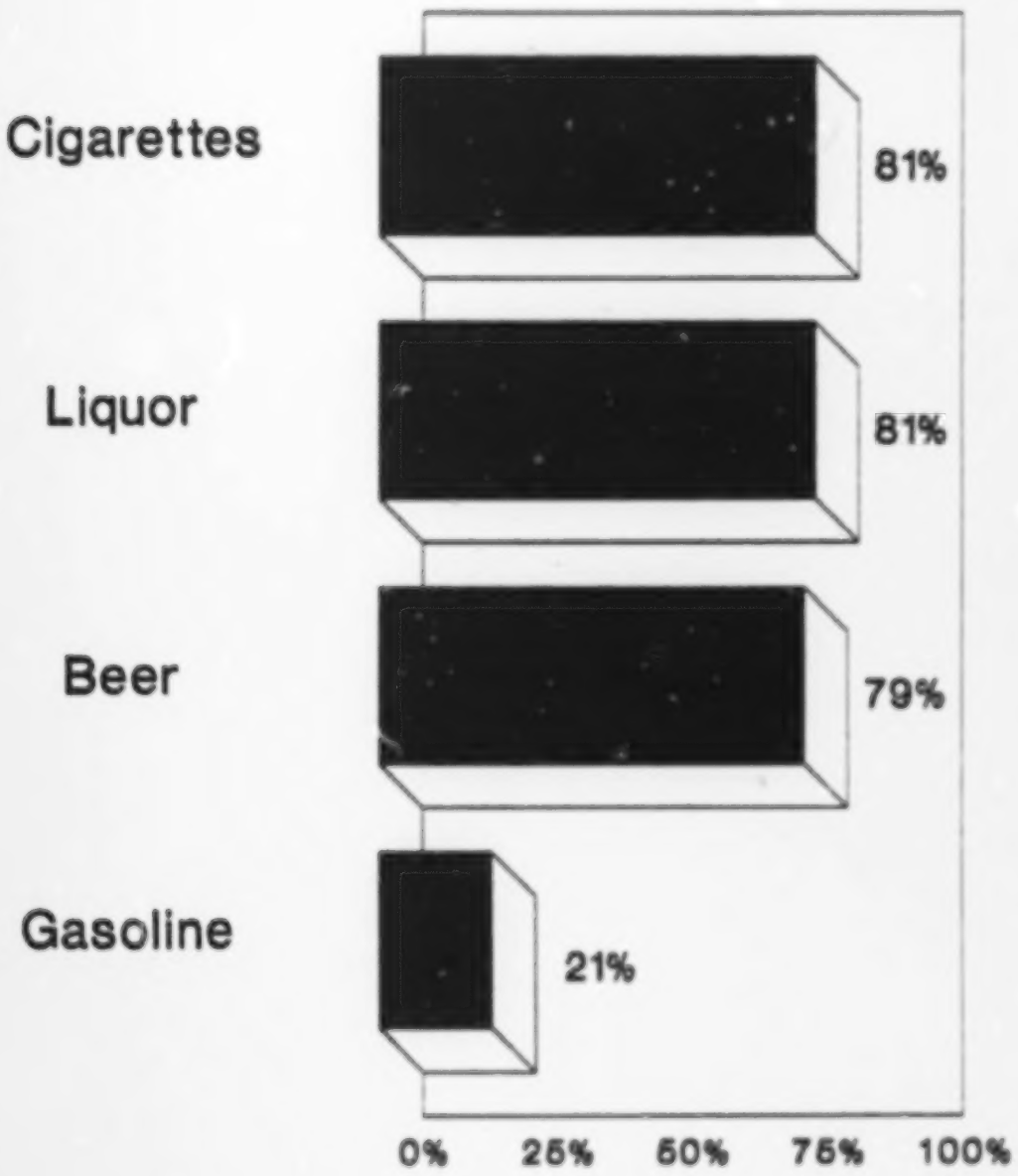
Question: To help reduce the state deficit, please tell me if you would *favor* or *oppose* an increase in the following taxes.

PERCENT RESPONDENTS "FAVORING"	Cigarettes	Beer	Liquor	Gasoline
Statewide	81%	79%	81%	21%
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	83	83	83	17
Urban	81	78	81	22
Region*				
Northwest	85	83	84	25
Southwest	76	76	79	18
Central	84	82	82	18
Northeast	82	78	81	9
Southeast	82	79	82	25
Age				
18 to 34 years old	81	72	75	18
35-49	84	83	85	22
50-64	81	83	84	19
65 or older	78	79	83	25
Sex				
Female	82	83	86	18
Male	80	74	77	24
Educational Level				
Less than High School	73	75	80	16
High School Graduate	79	78	80	18
College Graduate	89	83	84	28
Political Affiliation				
Republican	85	82	84	22
Democrat	79	78	79	21
Independent/Other	81	80	84	23
None	79	77	81	17
Source of Information				
Television	80	79	82	19
Newspaper	83	80	81	20
Radio	82	82	84	34
Magazine	91	82	85	38
Other	82	76	79	23
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	79	77	80	15
2-3	82	80	83	20
4-6	84	79	80	31

*See Appendices for explanation.

Figure 7. CONSUMPTION TAXES

Percent of Respondents Willing To Increase Taxes On...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

GOVERNMENT: Political Party Differences By Sex

RESPONSES:	Democrats Female	Democrats Male	Republican Female	Republican Male	Total*
Willing to Increase TAXES on					
Cigarettes	80%	78%	86%	84%	81%
Beer	80	75	87	76	79
Liquor	83	75	89	79	79
Gasoline	18	26	18	26	21
Willing to apply SALES TAX to:					
Beer & Liquor in Bars	79	70	85	72	76
Newspaper & TV Ads	70	74	76	75	72
Architect & Engineer Fees	59	66	63	63	62
Data Processing Fees	60	63	59	65	62
Candy and Gum	56	64	63	66	61
Newspapers and Magazines	52	52	55	54	54
Cable TV Service	51	56	55	58	54
Legal Fees	47	59	49	59	53
Out-of-State Phone Calls	39	50	41	45	43
Paper and Cleaning Supplies	30	37	28	36	34
Over-the Counter Drugs	17	21	17	20	20
Clothing and Shoes	17	21	20	20	20
Willing to Extend Gambling	58	69	57	59	60
Willing to REDUCE SPENDING for:					
Drug and Alcohol Program	29	36	28	34	31
Environmental Protection	29	23	24	32	27
Highway Maintenance	24	28	24	31	27
Job Training For Unemployed	22	22	21	29	25
Medical Assistance For Needy	20	24	24	28	24
Basic Education	19	17	20	22	20
Children and Youth	13	22	19	23	19
Law Enforcement	16	24	14	18	18
Programs For the Elderly	10	10	8	14	11

* These figures include respondents who described themselves as Independents, other political party registrants, and non-registered.

SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS

- **Most Pennsylvanians underestimate the actual size of Pennsylvania's population, but they greatly overestimate the percentage of Pennsylvanians who are black, and the percentage who are elderly . . . 85% of Pennsylvanians can name their governor, but less than one-third can name both U.S. Senators . . . Sen. Heinz was more widely known than Sen. Specter.**

Unfortunately, opinions are not always based upon accurate perceptions and knowledge. Over the past few years, there have been a variety of reports claiming that Americans are culturally illiterate. For example, in its "Report Card on Economic Illiteracy," the Joint Council on Economic Education reported that high school seniors have a dismal understanding of the basic concepts of economics. Similarly, the Kinsey Institute reported that despite the so-called sexual revolution, a high percentage of people remain naive in their understanding of human sexuality. And, in his popular book, *Innumeracy* (1988), the mathematician John Paulos pointed out that most Americans are not only illiterate, but also innumerate. In other words, they lack a clearly developed sense of numerical concepts; they are often guided by misperceptions of risks and probabilities.

As a simple test of socio-political awareness, Pennsylvanians were asked to estimate the population of Pennsylvania, the percentage of the population that is black, and the percentage that is 65 or older. In addition, respondents were asked to name the governor and Pennsylvania's two U.S. senators.

Pennsylvania Population Estimates. National surveys show that when Americans are asked to estimate the size of the United States population, about 25% underestimate the population — that is, they cite a figure of less than 200 million. Among Pennsylvanians, the tendency to underestimate Pennsylvanian's population is rather pronounced. There are actually about 12 million Pennsylvanians, yet 34% of Pennsylvanians would guess that the figure is less than 8 million. Females(41%) and the young adults (44%) are the most likely to underestimate; college-educated respondents(29%) are least likely.

Estimates of the Black Population. Blacks actually constitute about 9% of Pennsylvania's population. However, most Pennsylvanians think the figure is much higher: 80% have the notion that Blacks make up more than 12% of the population; 56%, think the figure is 25% or more. The tendency of Pennsylvanians to have exaggerated notions about the percent of Americans who are black is consistent with national surveys.

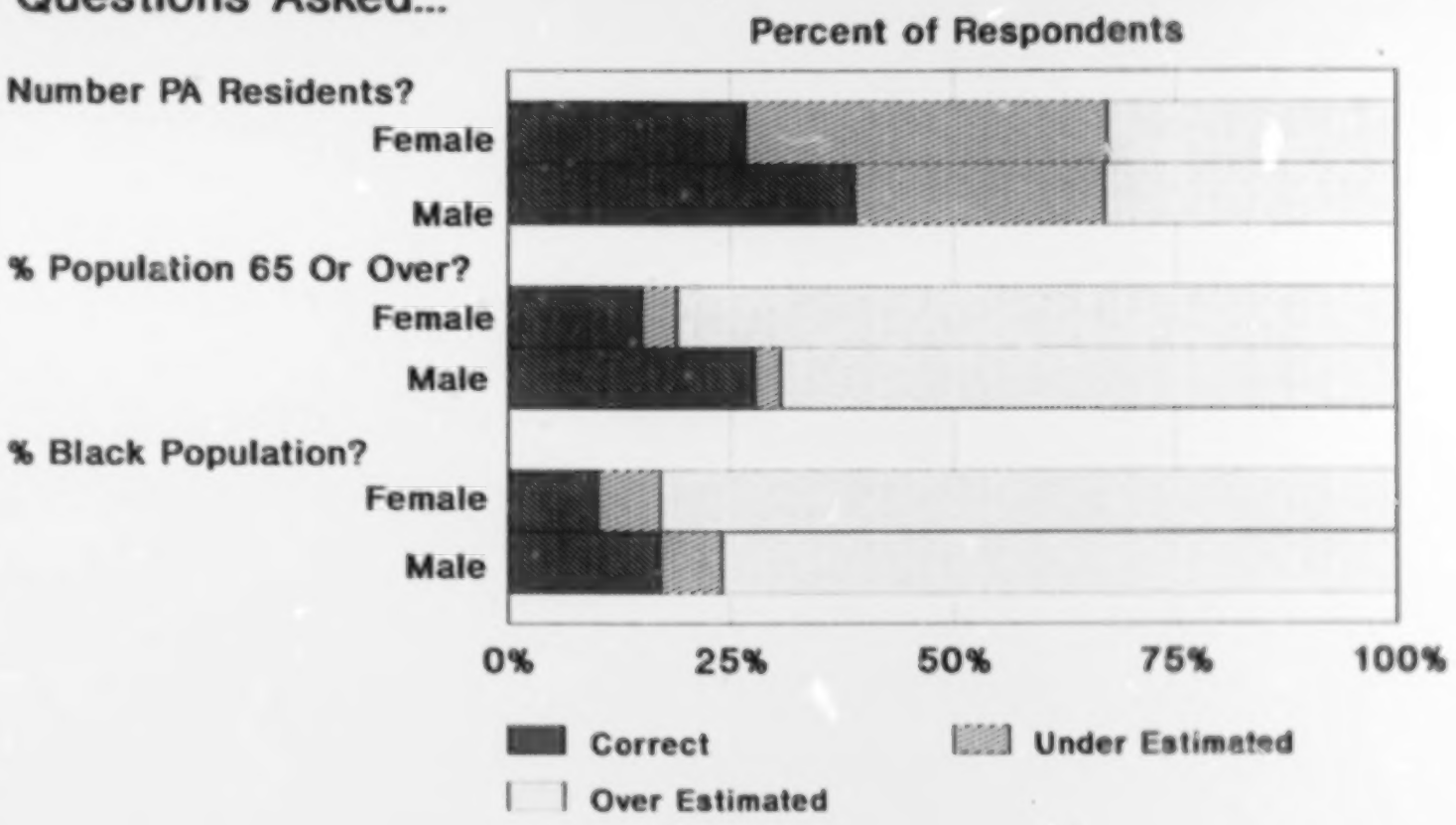
Estimates of the Elderly Population. Persons 65 or older actually constitute about 15% of Pennsylvania's population. However, most Pennsylvanians think the figure is much higher: 87% think the percentage is higher than it really is; half of the population think the figure is 30% or higher.

Ability to Name the Governor. In surveys conducted by the National Opinion Research Center, it has been generally found that 79% of Americans are able to name the governor of their state. Among Pennsylvanians, 85% are able to do so.

Ability to Name United States Senators. When asked to name the two United States Senators that represent them, about 31% of Pennsylvanians were able to do so. Among Pennsylvanians, the late Senator John Heinz (he died after the survey was conducted) was particularly well-known: 50% were able to name him as one of the senators. Pennsylvania's junior senator, Arlen Specter, was less well-known: overall, only 39% were able to name him.

Social Awareness Score. Overall, only one percent of Pennsylvanians were able to answer all of the above questions; that is, their estimate of the Pennsylvania population was between 8 and 16 million; the estimated percent of black was between 6 and 12 percent; the estimated percent of persons 65 or older was between 10 and 20%; and, the governor and both senators were identified by name. About 43% gave three or more "correct" answers.

Figure 8. SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS: Estimates of Pennsylvania Population

Question: Just your best guess, about how many million people live in Pennsylvania? (Actual, 12 million)

RESPONSES	Under	Estimates Correct (11-16 million)	Over	Number of Respondents
Statewide	34%	33	33	1113
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	34%	34	31	227
Urban	34%	33	33	886
Region*				
Northwest	29%	35	36	114
Southwest	34%	34	32	278
Central	39%	29	32	241
Northeast	30%	38	32	69
Southeast	33%	34	33	411
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	44%	26	30	382
35-49	31%	38	31	372
50-64	24%	37	39	197
65 or older	30%	34	36	155
Sex				
Female	41%	27	33	517
Male	28%	39	33	594
Educational Level				
Less than High School	37%	32	32	123
High School Graduate	37%	29	34	595
College Graduate	29%	40	31	392
Political Affiliation				
Republican	33%	36	31	402
Democrat	34%	33	33	404
Independent/Other	20%	33	47	64
None	40%	29	32	238
Source of Information				
Television	36%	33	32	544
Newspaper	31%	35	34	375
Radio	36%	40	24	50
Magazine	39%	29	32	28
Other	35%	31	34	65
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	58%	5	37	295
2-3	33%	30	38	534
4-6	11%	70	19	284

* See Appendices for explanation.

SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS: Estimates of Black Population

Question: What percent of the Pennsylvania population would you say is black? (Actual, 9%)

RESPONSES	Estimates: Under	Correct (6-12%)	Over	Number of Respondents
Statewide	7%	14	80	1358
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	6%	14	80	284
Urban	7%	14	80	1074
Region*				
Northwest	6%	14	81	141
Southwest	7%	14	79	353
Central	5%	14	81	281
Northeast	8%	21	71	89
Southeast	8%	12	80	494
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	8%	10	82	432
35-49	7%	18	75	435
50-64	6%	16	79	264
65 or older	5%	11	84	216
Sex				
Female	7%	10	83	694
Male	7%	17	76	662
Educational Level				
Less than High School	10%	8	83	160
High School Graduate	5%	12	83	750
College Graduate	8%	19	73	442
Political Affiliation				
Republican	7%	13	80	476
Democrat	6%	17	78	505
Independent/Other	5%	12	82	74
None	8%	11	81	291
Source of Information				
Television	7%	11	81	683
Newspaper	6%	17	77	442
Radio	9%	13	77	53
Magazine	0%	9	91	33
Other	7%	16	77	83
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	8%	2	91	422
2-3	7%	10	83	652
4-6	4%	39	56	284

* See Appendix for explanation.

SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS: Estimates of Elderly Population

Question: What percent of the Pennsylvania population would you say is 65 or older? (Actual, 15%)

RESPONSES:	Estimates: Under	Correct (10 - 20%)	Over	Number of Respondents
Statewide	4%	21	75	1360
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	3%	19	78	284
Urban	4%	22	75	1076
Region*				
Northwest	3%	21	76	141
Southwest	3%	17	80	352
Central	4%	20	77	283
Northeast	1%	16	83	92
Southeast	5%	26	70	492
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	4%	23	74	431
35-49	4%	27	70	425
50-64	4%	14	82	265
65 or older	3%	16	81	227
Sex				
Female	4%	15	81	692
Male	3%	28	70	666
Educational Level				
Less than High School	7%	15	78	165
High School Graduate	4%	19	78	748
College Graduate	2%	27	71	441
Political Affiliation				
Republican	3%	24	73	474
Democrat	4%	18	78	513
Independent/Other	3%	25	72	72
None	5%	21	74	288
Source of Information				
Television	5%	18	77	684
Newspaper	2%	24	74	440
Radio	0%	37	63	57
Magazine	0%	16	84	31
Other	5%	24	72	85
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	6%	4	90	431
2-3	3%	17	81	647
4-6	2%	57	41	282

* See Appendices for explanation.

SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS: Ability to Name Governor and U.S. Senators

Question: What is the name of the governor of Pennsylvania? What are the names of the two U.S. Senators that represent Pennsylvania in Washington?

RESPONSES:	Casey	Heinz	Specter	Both Senators
Statewide	85%	50%	39%	31%
Rural/Urban*				
Rural	84	40	33	26
Urban	85	53	42	33
Region*				
Northwest	85	41	39	30
Southwest	84	60	38	33
Central	88	49	38	29
Northeast	86	43	29	25
Southeast	82	48	44	33
Age				
18 to 34 year olds	81	39	30	21
35-49	84	53	44	35
50-64	90	59	46	37
65 or older	85	56	42	36
Sex				
Female	83	44	32	25
Male	87	57	38	38
Educational Level				
Less than High School	77	43	27	22
High School Graduate	84	44	34	26
College Graduate	88	63	56	45
Political Affiliation				
Republican	87	55	47	37
Democrat	86	52	43	34
Independent/Other	86	58	43	35
None	78	37	23	17
Source of Information				
Television	81	43	33	24
Newspaper	90	59	48	40
Radio	82	52	42	36
Magazine	94	62	56	47
Other	79	50	42	30
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1	69	4	1	1
2-3	96	64	46	45
4-6	100	93	88	83

* See Appendices for explanation.

QUOTES:

Corporal Punishment

"Paddling in schools should only be permitted with parental approval."

"Some kids need a swatting!"

"Why stop paddling when the kids are paddling teachers?"

"Can't hurt them to be hit on the poo poo, it's well-cushioned."

Extending the School Year

"More pay for teachers, more school days for students."

"Lengthen the school day, not the school year."

"I think we should make those little !@*!+?!s go to school 365 days a year!"

Denying a Drivers License to a Dropout

"A dropout needs a drivers license to get a job."

Teachers' Right to Strike

"If baseball players can strike, so can teachers."

"No, they don't deserve what they already make."

"Require binding arbitration."

"There should be a time limit on the strikes."

"Teachers should not be allowed to strike when they're not working."

"Teachers should only be permitted to strike in the summer."

Testing Sex Criminals for AIDS

"Shoot 'em. Don't test 'em!"

Establishing a Legal Age for Smoking

"Impossible to enforce."

"Let smokers kill themselves."

"The legal age for smoking should be never."

"Smoking? . . . wait until 104."

Abortion

"Abortion is a very delicate subject. I don't think the government is sincere enough to handle it."

"Informing the husband? . . . only if a couple are living together as a family."

"Informing the husband? . . . only if it's his baby."

Fetal Protection

"It's discrimination against women!"

"A pregnant woman should not be allowed to harm her baby."

"An employer has the right to save himself from being sued."

Reducing State Spending

"Highway maintenance? . . . four guys stand around the pothole. One guy digs, three guys lean on shovels. Get rid of three . . . We already pay too much for them to sit on their asses and watch potholes get bigger."

"Programs for the elderly? . . . No, I'm one of them!"

"The government was much simpler(cheaper) when I was young."

"Too many dirty hands in the cookie jar."

"Cut the politicians' salaries, starting with the governor and his gold-lined pockets."

Taxes

"Don't tax paper unless it is not recyclable."

"Only people who have children in school should have to pay school taxes."

"There should be only one tax and that's a federal sales tax."

"I say soak the rich!"

"FDR said that paying taxes is a privilege. I say it's become a punishment."

"People over a certain age should not have to pay any taxes."

Means Testing

"Who will decide who's needy?"

Casino Gambling

"Keep it where poor folks can't be tempted."

"The lottery is bad enough."

Social-Political Awareness

"Hold on, let me get my son."

"Senators? I haven't the slightest idea."

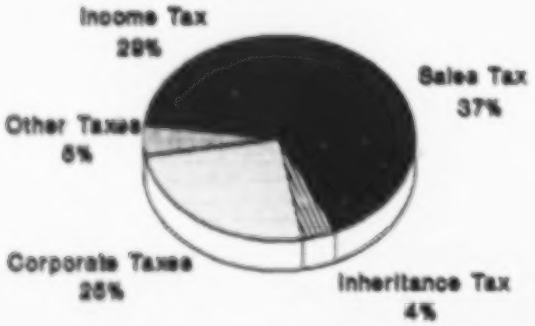
Demographic Information

"I consider myself part of the rat race."

APPENDIX A: Pennsylvania Tax Information

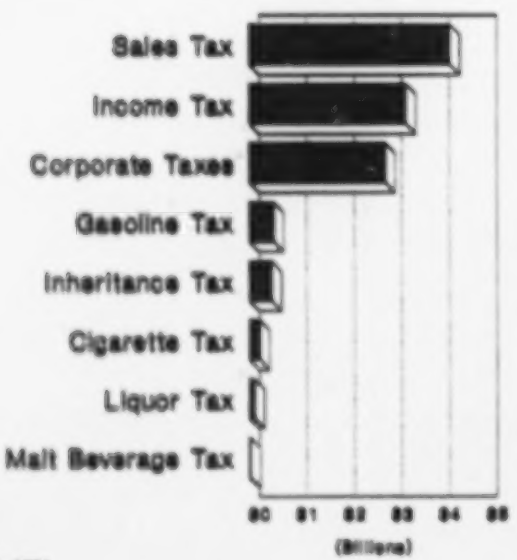
General Fund Tax Revenue
1990

Total General Fund Taxes: $11.4 Billion



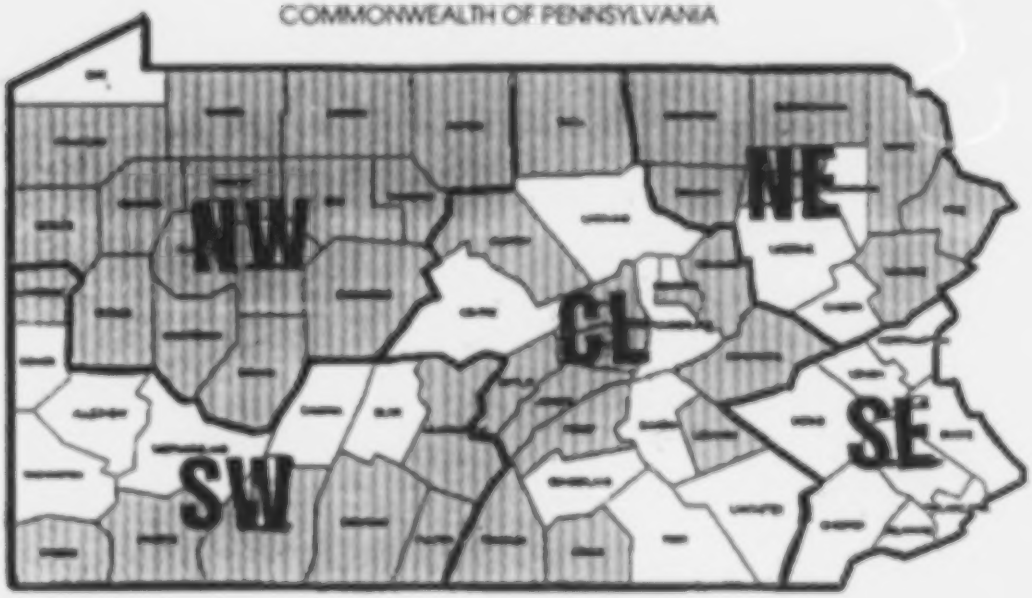
Sources of Tax Revenue

Revenue Raised By Taxes
1990



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, 1991

APPENDIX B: Regional and Urban-Rural Classification



With only a few exceptions, people living in a borough or township with a total population smaller than 2,500 people are rural residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Based upon this definition of rural areas, the counties shown in white are considered mostly "urban counties," and the counties shown in grey are considered mostly "rural counties."

APPENDIX C: Social-Political Awareness Scoring

To determine a social-political awareness score, respondents were asked six questions: (1) Just your best guess, about how many million people live in Pennsylvania? (2) What percent of the Pennsylvania population would you say is Black? (3) What percent of the Pennsylvania population would you say is 65 or older? (4) What is the name of the governor of Pennsylvania? (5) What are the names of the two United States Senators that represent Pennsylvania in Washington?

The following responses were considered "correct" answers: (1) 8 thru 16 million; (2), 6 thru 12%; (3), 10 thru 20%; (4), Casey; (5), Heinz and Specter. For the last question, respondents were given a point for each senator named. Thus, the maximum score was 6 "correct" answers.

APPENDIX D: The Sample

The sample was provided by Survey Samp, Inc. It was a replicate sample consisting of 4350 telephone numbers randomly selected from all listed telephone numbers in Pennsylvania. Of that number, there were 1518 completed interviews.

The interviews took place between February 11 and March 5, 1991. Each interview took approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The sample closely approximates actual demographic characteristics of Pennsylvania.

	Actual (1990)	Sample
Population	**11,881,643**	**1518**
Sex		
Male	47%	47%
Female	53	53
Age		
18-34	36%	30%
35-49	25	31
50-64	19	20
65+	19	18
Region		
NW	14%	10%
SW	24	26
CL	20	21
SE	39	36
NE	8	7
Urban-Rural		
Mostly urban counties	79%	79%
Mostly rural counties	21	21
Political Affiliation		
Registered		
Republican	43%	44%
Democratic	52	49
Independent/Other	5	6
Not registered	25%	22%

In theory, in 19 of 20 cases the results based upon the sample will differ by no more than three percentage points in either direction from what would be obtained if all Pennsylvania adults with listed telephone numbers were contacted. The potential sampling error for smaller subgroups is larger. For example, for either Democrats or Republicans it is plus or minus five percentage points.

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HOPE
- o Tioga County Prison Program

Student Literacy Corps
- o Literacy Corps Projects and University Credit

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